

12th September, 1960.COCOM Document No. 4142COORDINATING COMMITTEEMr. CASILLI D'ARAGONA'S INAUGURAL SPEECHAS CHAIRMAN OF THE COORDINATING AND CHINA COMMITTEES 2-STD8th September 1960

Present: Belgium(Luxembourg), France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States.

Introduced by the senior delegate of the Committee, the Chairman, Mr. Casilli d'Aragona, made the following inaugural speech.

"Gentlemen, and, may I add, to anticipate events somewhat:
My dear friends,

I should like first of all to express to you, and through you, to each of your Governments, the gratitude I feel for the confidence you have placed in me by electing me to the Chair of the International Coordinating Committee and of the China Committee. It is the third time, since the distant day of COCOM's beginnings in 1950, that Italy has had the honour of placing a member of her Diplomatic Service at the disposal of this International Organisation: that means that each of my predecessors succeeded in winning the esteem and confidence of you all: an esteem and confidence which it is now my task - and not an easy one - to try to win in my turn.

This International Organisation has known periods of major and minor importance according to developments in the international political situation. This undeniable fact, of which we are all well aware, proves that this is not - or rather is not merely - a technical organisation, but is first of all a political one. This is confirmed, moreover, by the fact that the Heads of Delegations are diplomats, and not technicians.

Consequently I believe that in our work we must not lose sight of the political task entrusted to us: we cannot disregard the times in which we live, or the evolution of the international situation; on the contrary, we must adhere to, and follow without any "stickiness", whatever may be the general trend of Western policy. In the light of such directives - which it is our duty to request in unclear cases - we must carry out our task. I do not believe that it would be in the general interest to follow today the trends which may have been right yesterday, nor is it certain that we shall continue tomorrow to act along the lines which appear appropriate today."

(Speaking in French, the Chairman continued:)

"Obviously, each Delegation preserves its complete autonomy and independence in the fulfilment of its tasks, but I feel - and I shall return to this point at a later stage - that it would be desirable to proceed to a re-thinking of our methods, to a readjustment of our orientations, perhaps to an expansion of our activities.

This will have to be done prudently and smoothly, but with the aim of subordinating any individual interests to the more general interests of

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participating countries as a whole - which amounts, in the final analysis, to looking after those individual interests themselves, inasmuch as they form part of, and constitute, that collective interest.

I hope the day will never come when we shall be accused of shortsightedness, for that would call into question all the activities of our Organisation.

For today I think nothing more is called for: we shall have ample time to get to know each other better, and to exchange views which will, I hope, be convergent rather than divergent.

I wish only to affirm categorically that in the fulfilment of my task I shall have as my sole aim the attainment of the objectives which participating countries had in mind when, by common accord, they established COCOM and its attendant machinery. I trust that you will grant me your full and friendly cooperation to this end, and I thank you."

C O N F I D E N T I A L